

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC-EIND, BE

SUBJECT: US-EC INDUSTRIAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3929 AND 3928

1. AS DESCRIBED REFERENCED CABLES, US AND EC SIDES
AGREED HOLD IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY PRIOR
TO NINTH ROUND OF SEMI-ANNUAL US-EC CONSULTATIONS.
PRELIMINARY U.S. VIEWS ON SUCH DISCUSSIONS FOLLOW. MISSION
REQUESTED CONVEY THESE TO COMMISSION AND ASCERTAIN
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COMMISSION'S THINKING.

2. WHILE FLEXIBLE, WE SUGGEST HOLDING TWO DAY MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN EARLY OCTOBER. THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF REGULAR US-EC CONSULTATIONS TO ALLOW POLICY ISSUES ARISING FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS TO BE TAKEN UP DURING LATER MEETINGS.

3. EITHER WASHINGTON OR BRUSSELS AS LOCATION FOR DISCUSSION ACCEPTABLE TO US, ALTHOUGH BRUSSELS MIGHT BE PREFERABLE BECAUSE SOME OF SAME EC OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE TO COME TO WASHINGTON SEVERAL WEEKS LATER FOR SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS.

4. WE WOULD PREFER INFORMAL TALKS AT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. CURRENT THINKING IS THAT U.S. SIDE WOULD BE LED BY DAS OF COMMERCE FOX. EC DELEGATION MIGHT BE HEADED AT DIRECTOR-GENERAL LEVEL (E.G. INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS WITH PARTICIPATION BY EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTERNAL MARKET OFFICIALS).

5. OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS IS NOT TO REVIEW RESPECTIVE PHILOSOPHIES UNDERLYING INDUSTRIAL POLICY BUT RATHER TO DISCUSS THE INSTRUMENTS USED TO CARRY OUT SUCH POLICIES IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL SO THAT EACH SIDE IS BETTER INFORMED OF THE OTHER'S PROBLEMS AND PRACTICES. THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD SUPPLEMENT RATHER THAN REPLACE INDUSTRIAL POLICY TALKS IN SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS.

6. THE ELEMENTS WHICH WE WOULD PREFER TO FOCUS ON IN THIS INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOW.

(A) STANDARDS. THIS COULD INCLUDE PRESENTATION BY U.S. ON HOW OUR STANDARDS ARE DEVELOPED AND HOW EC INTERESTS MIGHT BE REFLECTED IN THEIR FORMULATION; PRESENTATION BY EC ON CURRENT EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE EC STANDARDS; SPECIFIC U.S. CONCERN RE EC STANDARD DIRECTIVES; AND POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY US AND EC IN DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CODE.

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(B) GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. BOTH SIDES COULD USE OCCASION TO OUTLINE SPECIFIC CONCERNS RE OTHER'S CURRENT PRACTICES. DISCUSSION SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE EC PROPOSALS FOR HARMONIZED GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT PRACTICES, AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT PRACTICES CODE AS ELEMENT OF THE MTN.

(C) EC SECTORAL POLICIES. WE WISH TO DISCUSS AIRCRAFT

AND COMPUTER SECTOR POLICIES IN DETAIL, AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GENERAL PRESENTATION ON COMMISSION'S THINKING RE SECTOR POLICY FOR TEXTILES, PAPER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND OTHER SECTORS AS APPROPRIATE.

(D) OTHER TOPICS. IF TIME PERMITS AND EC WILLING, OTHER TOPICS SUCH AS EC HARMONIZATION OF COMPANY LAW AND OUR RESPECTIVE REGIONAL POLICIES COULD BE DISCUSSED. SISCO

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